

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 6, 2008**  
**( Approved on November 14, 2008)**

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were John Arsenault, Jay Bradshaw, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephen Bunker, Representative Dean Cray, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Ron Green, Alan Hammond (for Alan Johnston), Geoffrey Maker, Ed Marks, Robert McAleer, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Vicki Schmidt, and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Gerry Gay, Harty Norris, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Charles Soltan, Senator Ethan Strimling and David Wacker.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Ron Green, to accept the revised meeting minutes of September 8, 2008.*** The motion passed unanimously. The revised minutes will indicate on the first motion (page 2) that three members (Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker and Chief John Dean) abstained from the vote.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reported on their joint discussions with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The Spring Conference has had several meetings with MEMA to discuss the possibility of partnering with MEMA and combining the Fire Commission's Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders with MEMA's Annual HAZMAT Conference. Discussions have centered on the dates, site and theme of the proposed event. The Augusta Civic Center was the preferred site for 2009 and a late April/May date was suggested. Some Fire Commission members expressed reservations with the later Spring date, preferring a March date, citing conflicts with other fire service events. Final decisions on site and speakers will need to be made in the next month. Copies of information on cloned vehicles, a topic suggested for discussion at the Spring Conference, were distributed. The Spring Conference encouraged members to forward other ideas and suggestions as soon as possible.

The Training Facilities Committee distributed the completed DVD and leave behind-"Securing Maine's Future". Fire Commission members were encouraged to share the materials with their constituents, members and communities. Future plans include making the DVD available on the Fire Commission's website. The original Training Facilities Task Force will reconvene in Old Orchard Beach on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the DVD and discuss how they can assist the Fire Commission in the next course of action. The Committee also briefed members on the progress of the bond. The original motion proposed a

bond for \$30 million to build a state training facility and five regional training facilities, but members have revised that estimate to \$80 million.

***A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by John Arsenault, to revise the original bond cost estimates to \$80 million for the funding of a state training facility and five regional training facilities.*** The motion passed unanimously with five members abstaining (Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker, Chief John Dean, Alan Hammond and Robert McAleer).

The Best Practices Committee reports no new nominations have been received. The Committee continues to encourage members and others to forward names of individuals, organizations and/or communities who initiate, adopt and support these safe and creative ideas and practices.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reports that the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters (MSFFF) and the Maine Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) have both committed funds to support the Fire Commission's goal to provide a length of service award program (LOSAP) to volunteer and call firefighters in Maine. The R/R Committee has been discussing the necessity to update the information in the original Penflex report and whether to offer a defined contribution or defined benefit plan. The R/R Committee suggested that if the Fire Commission proposed legislation to offer a defined contribution plan, the updated actuarial numbers would not be required. The funds would be used to hire a consultant to initiate legislation and assist in passing the legislation. The R/R Committee also suggested the Fire Commission invite representatives from the MSFFF, MFCA and other interested parties to meet soon with Ed Holohan of Penflex and discuss plans for the upcoming legislative session. Members suggested coordinating the meeting with Penflex and November's regular meeting for the same day in Augusta. Staff will make arrangements.

### Old Business

The Fire Commission continues to recommend and support efforts to educate Maine's fire service and citizens of the benefits of residential sprinklers. Members were informed of a DVD that eliminated the myths of residential sprinklers and suggested this DVD and other information be shown on local access stations and community meetings. Members were updated on the Fire Team USA program on residential sprinklers on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Bangor.

Fire Commission members discussed the latest information on consolidation of PSAPs and dispatch centers. Members learned that the Legislature's Business, Research and Economic Development Committee continues to study the issue of reducing the present numbers of PSAPs.

### New Business

Maine Fire Service Day at the State House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Plans are to have several tables in the Welcome Center and on the first and second floors. Additional ideas for the morning legislative session include fire service personnel providing color guard, anthem and morning prayer duties in both the House and Senate. Members suggested the 2009 Legislative Breakfast at the Senator be scheduled for the same day.

Fire Commission members agreed to postpone the planned tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy and reschedule the visit in late Spring of 2009.

The Fire Commission's monthly newsletter is almost one year old. Members have received positive feedback and agreed to continue the newsletter for an additional year.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Alex McPhedran, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission extend Vicki Schmidt's contract to produce the Fire Commission's monthly newsletter and thanks her for her hard work.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission also recognizes the State Fire Marshal for his recent public service announcements on the safe operation of space heaters.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

## Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

Monday, November 4, 2008

**ELECTION DAY**

Friday, November 14, 2008

LOSAP Meeting    DPS- FHCR\*

9:00am

Friday, November 14, 2008

MEETING    DPS-FHCR\*

1:00pm

Monday, December 1, 2008

MEETING    Florian Hall

1:00pm

Thursday, December 25, 2008

*MERRY CHRISTMAS*

Thursday, January 1, 2009

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Monday, January 5, 2009

MEETING    State House

1:00pm

Monday, February 2, 2009

MEETING    State House

1:00pm

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Legislative Breakfast at the Senator

TBA

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Maine Fire Service Day at the State House

*\* DPS-FHCR is Department of Public Safety, Fallen Heroes Conference Room*

To be scheduled:

2009 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy (late Spring 2009)